

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets are provided for sheets 2 and 7 of the drawings wherein:

FIG. 2 on Sheet 2 is amended to provide further detail consistent with the cross-sectional view of FIG. 3 shown below; and

FIG. 13 is amended to insert the correct reference numeral 50 in place of the incorrect numeral 51 shown in the original Sheet 7.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4 have been canceled. Claims 5 – 16 have been added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Further, claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over any one of Lagana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,334,954, hereinafter “Lagana”), Sephton (U.S. Patent No. 6,309,513), or Bitterly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,695,951, hereinafter “Bitterly”). Claims 1 – 4 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sephton in view of Bitterly. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

New claims 5 through 16 are submitted in place of the original claims 1 – 4, which are canceled. Applicant has taken the examiner’s comments and suggestions into consideration in preparing the new claims. Applicant also submits that the amendments to the claims obviate the Section 112, second paragraph, Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1 – 4. Further, applicant submits that new claims 5 through 16 are definite as well as patentable over the cited prior art.

For these reasons, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph, Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, applicant was also requested to correct the specification and to provide an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b).

Applicant has extensively amended the specification to provide support for the terminology of the new claims, which are based on the original disclosure. Applicant has also improved the grammar and syntax of the specification as requested by the examiner. Further, a new abstract has been provided as required.

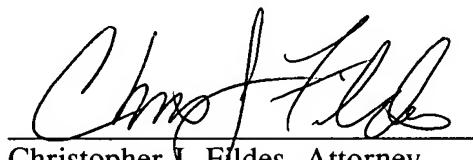
The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). Specifically, the Office Action stated that reference characters “28” and “29” were both used to designate “weir.” Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Weir 28 and weir 29 are two different weirs (for example, see FIGS. 2 and 3). Therefore, reference numerals “28” and “29” do not designate the same part. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Applicant was also requested to further check the specification and drawings for accuracy. Therefore, applicant has provided Replacement Drawing Sheets with corrected reference numerals.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

A Petition for a One Month Extension of Time and a PTO-2038 authorizing payment in the amount of \$60.00 for the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) are included herewith.

Respectfully submitted,
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